

ARTICLE APPEARED
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June 1985**London ABA Conference:
National Security Leaks—
Is There A Legal Solution?**

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The Standing Committee on Law and National Security of the American Bar Association will present a panel discussion on the important and timely subject of national security leaks at the ABA annual meeting in London. The program will take place at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, on Wednesday, July 17, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Controversy over leaks of national security information has made headlines in both the U.S. and Britain in recent months. The U.S. administration is reported to be seeking new legislation to reinforce its powers against government employees who disclose classified information, while at the same time senior U.S. government officials have accused members of the U.S. media of irresponsibility in publishing certain information disclosed to them and have taken steps to try to reduce media access to classified information. In Britain, the trial of Clive Ponting under the Official Secrets Act for disclosing information to a member of Parliament has provoked intense controversy over the validity of the Official Secrets Act.

The discussion, entitled "National Security Leaks—Is There A Legal Solution?", will bring together a distinguished panel of U.S., British and Canadian experts in matters of national security, the media, and legal controls on the dissemination of information. The panel will focus on whether new legislation is needed in the U.S. and, if so, what form that legislation should take. The discussion will include an assessment of the magnitude of the problem and of the feasibility of controlling leaks, and debate on the public policy and legal ramifications of the problem. Comparisons will be made to the British and Canadian experience under their respective Official Secrets Acts.

The panel will include such experts as Brian Raymond, who was Clive Ponting's solicitor; Douglas Rutherford, Q.C., assistant deputy attorney general (criminal law) of Canada; Kathleen Buck, Office of General Counsel, Department of Defense; Richard Willard, acting assistant attorney general, Civil Division, Department of Justice; Carl Stern, NBC-TV News; Daniel Schorr, journalist; Mark Lynch, staff counsel with the ACLU National Security Project; and Thomas Martin, formerly acting assistant attorney general, Civil Division, Department of Justice. The panel will be moderated by Daniel B. Silver, former general counsel, Central Intelligence Agency.